

Colored School No. 9 (Public School No. 104)  
(Robert Brown Elliot School)  
1431 North Carey Street  
Baltimore (Independent City)  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-235

HABS  
MD,  
4-BALT,  
169-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HABS  
MD,  
4-BALT,  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-235

COLORED SCHOOL #9  
(Public School #104)  
(Robert Brown Elliot School)

Location: 1431 North Carey Street; Baltimore (city), Maryland

Present Owner: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: This building is significant for its architectural design, use as a school for black children, and its association with the architect, Alfred Mason. the building is notable for its size and design considering that it was built exclusively for black school children. Until the mid-twentieth century, Baltimore City Public Schools were racially segregated. It is significant that this school is large and well-designed. It exemplifies the interest taken in the late nineteenth century for educating black children.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1897
2. Architect: Alfred Mason. His most significant work was another public school building -- the old Western High School Building on McCulloh Street. It is a highly elaborate Romanesque style structure designed for one of the City's most important high schools.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: City of Baltimore
4. Alterations and Additions: None

B. Historical Context:

This building is located in a mid to late nineteenth century neighborhood. It is adjacent to Saint Peter Claver Church, an important black Catholic Church with private educational facilities. The surrounding community was the largest and most influential black neighborhood in Baltimore around the turn of the century. The school was built to serve the needs of this black community.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Colored School #9 is a three story high brick structure in a deteriorated condition. The building features Renaissance Revival detailing in arched windows and entrances, brick rustication, and slightly overhanging hipped roofs. A stone panel at the second floor level originally featured a sign stating "Colored School #9." The side elevations are similar to the front but the rear is less decorative.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building is in poor condition. Most of the windows are broken or boarded and the interior has been vandalised. The surrounding community is also in a fairly deteriorated condition, although the nearby Catholic Church and School is well maintained. A new public school building is located across the street.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all Dimensions: 65' x 105'
2. Foundations: Brick
3. Walls: Brick rustication on the first floor, stretcher bond brick above.
4. Structure: Load bearing brick walls.
5. Chimneys: Two large ventilation shafts and chimneys project from the center of the roof.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways: The original entrance doors were panelled wood doors above a flight of stone steps and set into a rusticated brick archway.
  - b. Windows: The original windows were six over two, double hung wood windows with stone sills and brick lintels or arches. The windows on the first and third floors are full arched. The windows at the basement level are smaller and square in shape.

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7. Roof:

- a. Shape: Hipped roof made with overhanging eaves.
- b. Cornice: Wood cornice features long modillions.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: See enclosed drawings. The two entrances lead to halls that end in stairs. Classrooms are located on either side of the halls. Bath rooms and mechanical space is located between the halls.
- 2. Stairways: Two wood half-turn stairs with landings are located at the rear of the building. The stairs have faced some fire damage.
- 3. Flooring: Floors in the bulding are 3" strip wood (probably pine) or linoleum.
- 4. Wall Finish: The walls are plaster with wood wainscotting in the halls.
- 5. Openings:
  - a. Doors: The doors are solid wood panel doors with transoms.
  - b. Windows: The windows are deteriorated but retain wood frames.
- 6. Decorative Finish: Bulls-eye corner blocks and wood molded decorations at the wainscotting in the main halls.
- 7. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Lighting: Fluorescent lighting fixtures are the only mechanical equipment remaining in the building.

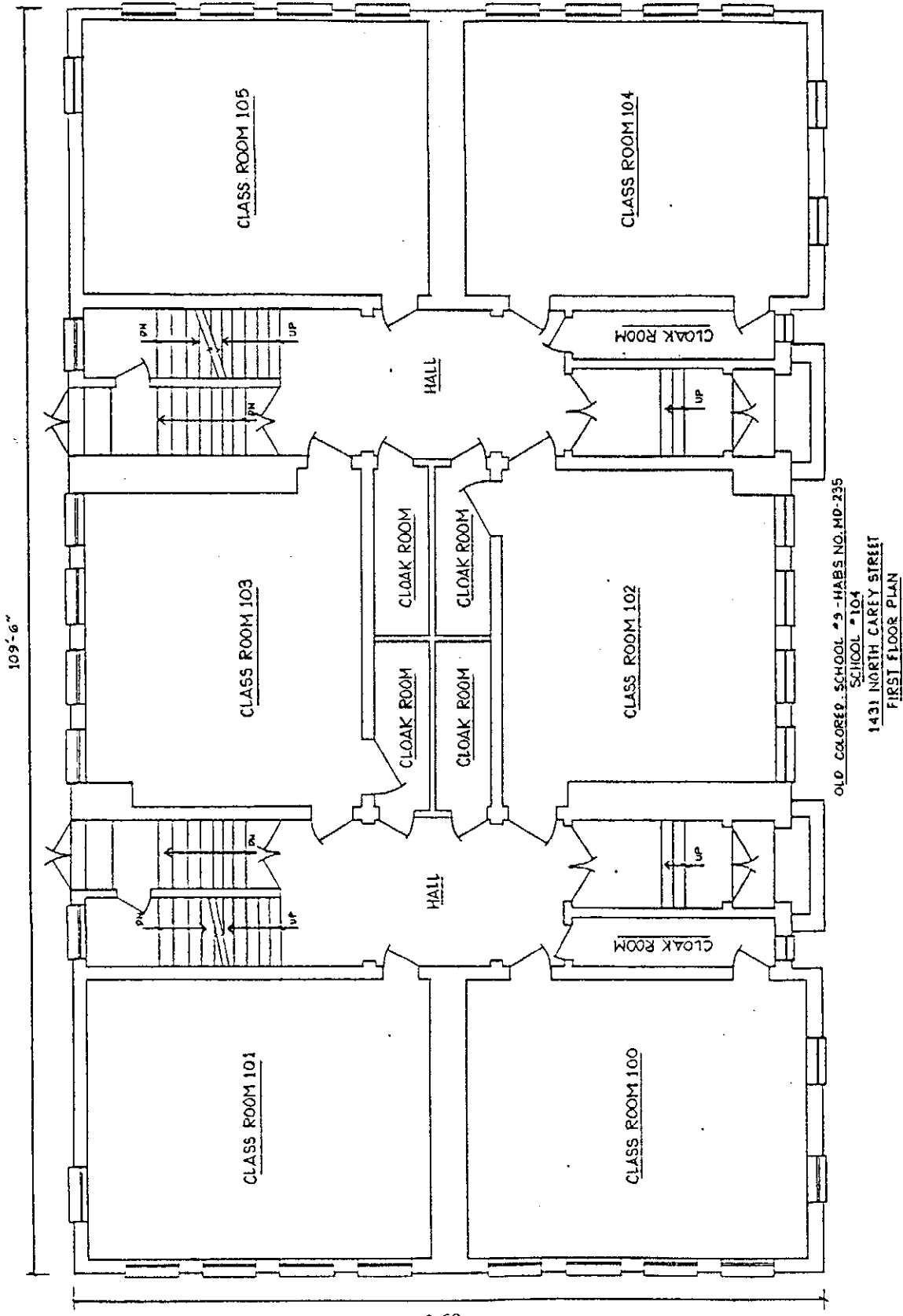
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PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

A. Bibliography: Baltimore City Building Inspectors Report 1898.  
1961 School Building Directory.  
Determination of Eligibility Documentation.

Prepared by: Fred B. Shoken  
Historic Preservation Analyst  
Commission for Historical and  
Architectural Preservation  
July 22, 1985

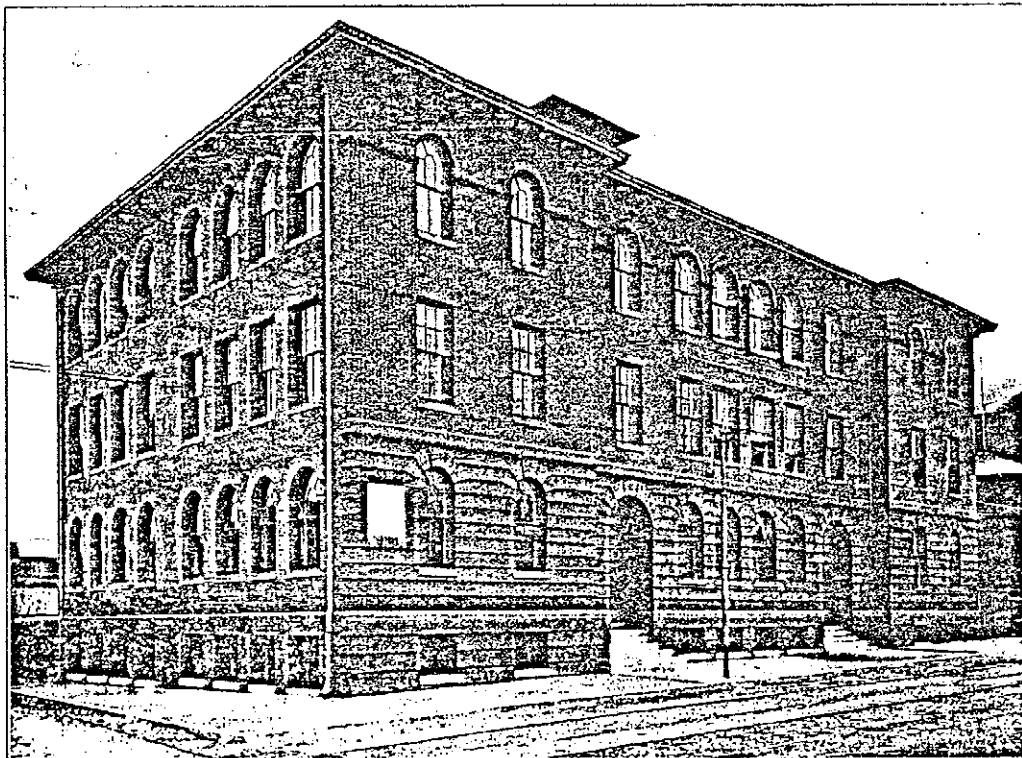
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Building Inspectors Report -- Baltimore City -- 1898

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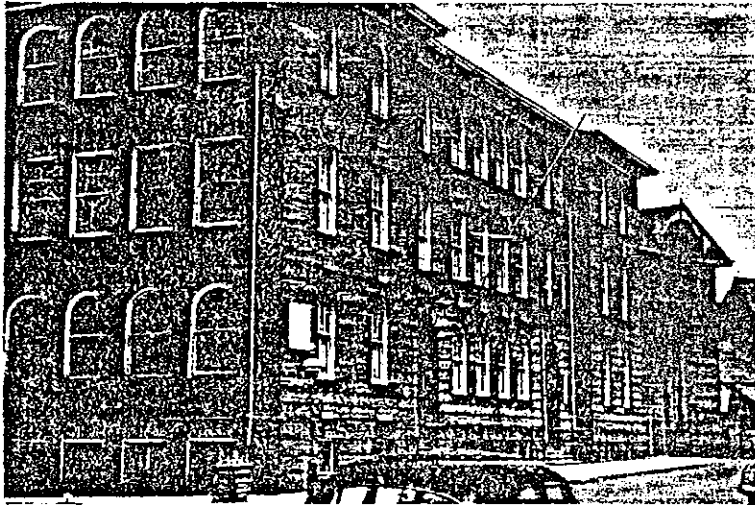


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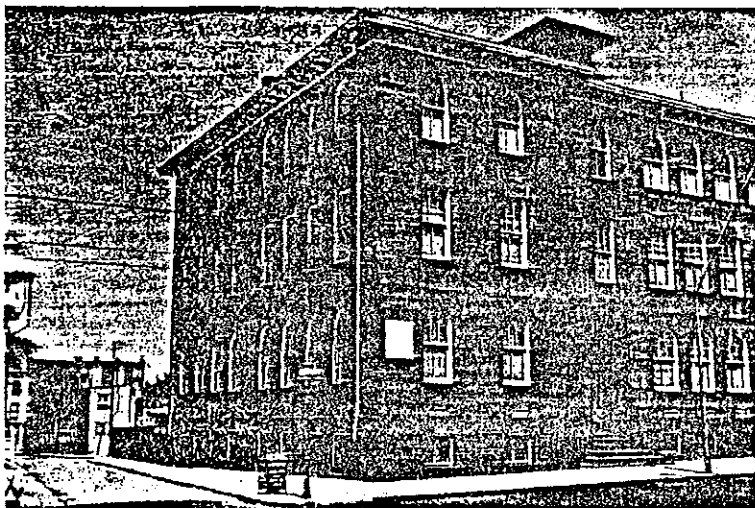
ROBERT BROWN ELLIOTT SCH. <sup>U</sup> 104  
Carey and School Sts. (17)

TYPE: Elementary



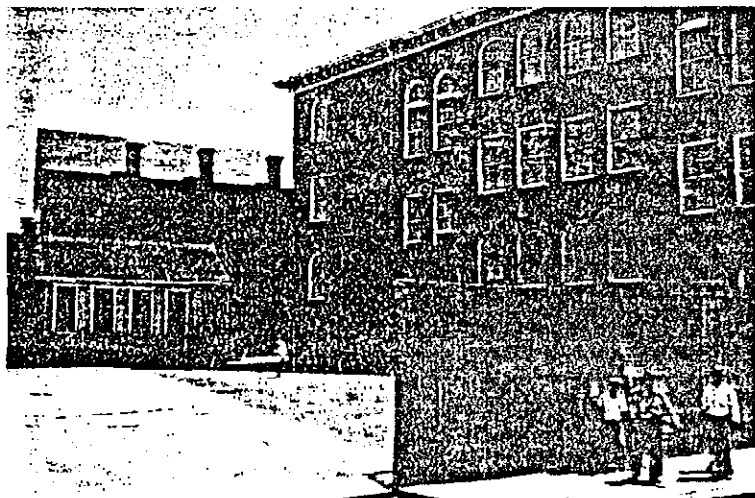
Building stands at corner of Carey and School Streets—fronts on Carey.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RATING	
Date(s) of Constr.	1897
Material	Brick
Rating, 1951 School Facilities Survey	Bldg. Fair Port. Unsatis.
Defects Noted in Survey	



Corner of building pointing due west.

FACILITIES	NO	REMARKS
Auditorium	0	
Gymnasium	0	
Gym-Auditorium	0	
Cafeteria	1	Capacity 70
Library	1	
Shop	0	
Home Ec. Room	0	
Laboratory	0	
Classroom	19	(1 in Portable)



Play area east of building. Structure seen behind portable is not part of school.

AREAS	SQUARE FEET
Total Site ( .47 acres)	20,431
Building	9,193
Floor Space <small>ALL FLOORS, INC. BASEMENT</small>	23,408
Play Space	11,860
Hard Surface	11,860
Soil	None
Ornamental and Service	622

REMARKS:

Revised 7/61, Map 1/63